



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BISHOP ANNOUNCES \$100,000 FOR MATTITUCK STUDY**

*Erosion Study Seeks to Protect Shoreline, Use of Harbor*

**Washington, DC**—Congressman Tim Bishop today announced \$100,000 to continue an Army Corps of Engineers erosion study for Mattituck Inlet. Bishop worked to include the funds in the Fiscal Year 2005 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which passed the House on Friday by a vote of 370 to 16.

“Protecting our shoreline and access to Mattituck Inlet is vital to North Fork’s economy,” Bishop said. “I am glad that we are continuing to fund this effort, and I am hopeful this study will result in a plan to stabilize the shoreline.”

The federally maintained jetties at Mattituck Inlet interrupt the littoral drift of sand on the Long Island Sound. This interruption causes sand to steadily accumulate on the western side of the Inlet, while causing a tremendous erosion problem to the east. The Army Corps of Engineers originally built protecting jetties at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The jetties have been rebuilt, extended and raised throughout the years.

Unfortunately, the erosion rate in the Mattituck Inlet has become so severe that the barrier beach separating the Long Island Sound from the Inlet will soon be breached, rendering the jetties useless. Boats would lose the ability to enter the Inlet and 60 acres of protected New York State Wetlands would be in grave danger.

“I will continue to work with Army Corps officials and Supervisor Horton to coordinate this vital project,” Bishop said.

Although these funds passed the House today, they still must be approved by the Senate, and then signed into law by the President. Fiscal Year 2005 begins on October 1 of this year.

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